

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/751,989

Examiner

Ramy M. Osman

Applicant(s)

LEVOSKY, MICHAEL P.

Art Unit

2157

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 12/1/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 3,6-11,25-28 and 33-35.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

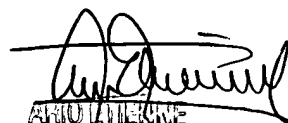
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


AMY L. TIERNE
SUPERVISING PATENT EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2157

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to amendment filed 12/1/2005 where applicant amended claims 6 and 25, and added new claims 30-34.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

3. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Mark White on February 15, 2006 (See attached Interview Summary for details).

The application has been amended as follows:

(see attached amendment sheet)

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 3,6-11,25-28,33-35 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The claims outline an invention not taught by the prior art wherein an email message contains an alias email address of the sender (i.e. not the original email address of the sender).

The message transmitted from a client control program to an alias email server includes a subject

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line prefix, user memo information; wherein the user memo information and user subject line prefix are stored in the alias email server; and wherein the user subject line prefix is inserted into the subject line of a reply message and the user memo information is inserted into a message body of the reply message.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Patent No. US006721785B1, Raghunandan teaches transmitting email to select recipients defined by one or more aliases in identified lists of recipients.

Patent No. US006023700A, Owens et al teaches email senders and receivers choosing from a variety of filter and forward options that allow them to manage their communications.

Patent No. US006389455B1, Fuisz teaches user accounts that automatically forward a user's email to the user's pre-selected forwarding e-mail addresses.

http://web.archive.org/web/*/http://sneakemail.com, Sneakemail teaches generating alias email addresses and by filtering incoming mail by using sneakemail filters.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ramy M. Osman whose telephone number is (571) 272-4008.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

RMO
February 18, 2006


ARIO ETIENNE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

a.) Introductory Comments

In response to the telephone communications from the Examiner during the week of February 13, 2006, the following amendment is submitted.

(a) In the Claims

1. and 2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[25]] 35,
further comprising, after receiving a message from a
recipient addressed to the first alias email address:

- (a) selecting by the user of the Reply function of an
email client program;
- (b) inputting of a reply message by the user;
- (c) transmitting of the user's reply message to the Alias
email server;
- (d) stripping of the user's reply message of all
information which could identify the user's physical
email address by the Alias email server; and
- (e) forwarding the stripped reply message to the
recipient.

4. and 5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[3]] 35,
wherein the generating of the alias email address further
comprises substantially random character generating.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[6]] 35, further
comprising entering one or more additional physical email
addresses into the client control program, and receiving

an additional alias email address corresponding to each additional physical email address.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising entering a request by the client control program for one or more additional alias addresses corresponding to each physical address, and receiving by the client control program an additional alias email address corresponding to each such request.
9. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[8]]~~ 35, further comprising entering a request by the client control program to suspend forwarding by the alias email server to the email client program of all email addressed to a particular alias email address.
10. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[9]]~~ 35, further comprising entering a request by the client control program to permanently discontinue receipt by the email client program of all email addressed to a particular alias email address.
11. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[10]]~~ 35, further comprising generating by the client control program of an alias email address containing a user name, and filtering the email at the Alias email Server.
12. through 24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[34]] 35, further comprising transmitting by the user a message to two or more recipients using the same alias first email address and the same identification information.

26. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[25]] 35, wherein the filter commands further comprise:

- (a) rejecting all messages addressed to the first alias email address at the alias email server;
- (b) suspending receipt of all messages addressed to the first alias email address by the alias email server; and
- (c) restoring receipt of all messages addressed to the first alias email address at the alias email server .

27. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[26]] 35, further comprising:

- (a) entering one or more additional alias email addresses and identification information associated with each such additional alias email address by the user;
- (b) generating a log by the client control program, and displaying the log to the user, the log comprising, for each alias email address;
 - (i) the date of the generation of the alias email address;
 - (ii) the alias email address; and
 - (iii) the corresponding identification information.

28. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[27]]~~ 35,
whereby

(a) the email messages further comprise a subject and a
body; and

(b) the identification information comprises a first
identification message and a second identification message,
and whereby the method further comprises :

(i) appending by the alias email server of the first
identification message to the subject; and

(ii) appending by the alias email server of the second
identification message to the body.

29. through 32 cancelled

33. (Currently amended) The method of claim 35 ~~32~~,
further comprising inserting the user subject line prefix
into header fields of the email message wherein the header
fields further comprise a FROM line, a CC line, and a BCC
line.

34. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[33]]~~ 35,
further comprising:

a) transmitting to the client control program by the
alias email server of statistical information which further
comprises:

1) the alias email address;

- 2) a time and date of the creation of the alias email address;
 - 3) a message number;
 - 4) the subject line prefix;
 - 5) the user memo information; and
 - 6) a number of messages received;
 - 7) a number of messages forwarded;
 - 8) a previous message received; and
- b) sorting of said statistical information by the client control program by either
- 1) a date received;
 - 2) a status, comprising suspension of message or resuming of messages;
 - 3) a number of total messages received from a particular recipient; or
 - 4) the date of the creation of the alias email address.

35. (New) In a computer data communications network, a method for a user to control and organize email messages further comprising a subject line and a message body, the method comprising the steps of:

a) Configuring a system comprising:

- 1) an email client program comprising a user email address, and residing on a user computer;

- 2) a user email server which communicates with the email client program over the data communications network;
 - 3) an alias email server which communicates with the user email server over the data communications network; and
 - 4) a client control system residing on the user computer which communicates with the alias email server over the data communications network;
- b) entering of the user email address, corresponding identification information, and filter commands into the client control system by the user;
 - c) transmitting the user email address, the filter commands, and the corresponding identification information, from the client control system to the alias email server;
 - d) storing the user email address, the filter commands, and the corresponding identification information in the alias email server;
 - e) automatically generating a first alias email address by the alias email server, not generated from the user address, and not generated from a recipient address, and storing said first alias email address in the alias email server;

- f) transmitting the first alias email address by the alias email server to the client control system;
- g) transmitting a message comprising the first alias email address as a sender address by the alias email server to a recipient;
- h) receiving by the alias email server of a reply message addressed to the first alias email address;
- i) storing information regarding the reply message in the alias email server;
- j) if the stored filter commands do not cause the alias email server to block the reply message, then forwarding by the alias email server of the reply message, together with the identification information, to the user address via the user email server;
- k) sending a subject line prefix from the client control program to the alias email server;
- l) sending user memo information from the client control program to the alias email server;
- m) storing the user memo information and user subject line prefix in the alias email server;
- n) inserting the user subject line prefix into the subject line of the reply message and inserting the user memo information into the message body of the reply message,

so that the recipient is unaware of the user email address, and the user is apprised of the first alias email address and the corresponding identification information of said reply message , and the user can easily associate the alias email address with the reply message and recipient.